

The following sketch is very specialist. You'll only really understand it if you're a musician, or at very least, you know what power chords are... and you know lots of Iron Maiden's music. (Knowing the history of the band will be good, too. Again, specialist). What's coming up isn't really even very funny. But screw it, I'll keep it anyway. Let's go!!!!

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STEVE HARRIS: Awesome, fellas, we've all turned up on time and have got everything set up. I've just started recording. This tape will be famous, one day. An excellent, raw, look back on history.

(The guitar parts of Black Sabbath's 'Paranoid' are played).

STEVE: For the love of God, can you shut up, Dennis?

(The playing stops).

DENNIS STRATTON: Sorry, man.

(The same song continues on guitar).

STEVE: Shut up, Dave!

(The playing stops).

DAVE MURRAY: It IS a good song...

STEVE: Hang on...

DAVE: What?

STEVE: What was that chord progression you played?

(The same part plays again, then stops).

DAVE: You mean that?

STEVE: Yeah. What was it?

DAVE: E power chord, C power chord, D power chord, E power chord...

STEVE: It was perfect. Play it again.

(The same part plays again, then stops. Again).

STEVE: Keep playing it. But this time with the whole band. 1. 2. 3. 4.

(The full band, minus the vocalist plays the same section over and over again).

PAUL DI'ANNO: (Heard through a microphone) Ok, that's enough.

STEVE: (Shouting over the music) I'll tell you when it's enough, Paul! This is the future!

(The drumming stops, then everyone else does).

STEVE: Why have you stopped, Clive?

CLIVE BURR: We get the point.

STEVE: No you don't. That was the best damn chord progression I've EVER heard. In forty years time, we will be known for playing it over and over and over and over and over again. This is only the start of something great.

DENNIS: You really couldn't make that more clear. On another note, I'm going to leave this band one day.

STEVE: God dammit Dennis, all we do is argue. This is my band, and if I say play the same stupid three chords until we die we will! Ok?

DENNIS: This is really dumb. I'm never going to forgive myself for playing 'Paranoid' to you. At least you'll play the progression in different keys, right?

STEVE: No, it has to be E. Most of the time. Not all the time, though.

DAVE: Open your mind a little, Dennis.

STEVE: There you go. Dave is going places. You're not.

PAUL: I'm kind of with you, Dennis.

STEVE: Paul, if you continue with that attitude, I'll sack you and replace you with Samson's singer. How do you like that?

PAUL: You wouldn't.

STEVE: Yes I would. Maybe not now, maybe not next year, but soon. And I'll say a dumb lie about why I did so. Like I sacked you because you're a club singer, not a stadium singer. Sounds reasonable, but again, that would be a lie. To be frank, I just don't like you.

PAUL: We'll never fill stadiums with your ripped off ideas.

STEVE: Watch it. Dave, can you play me those chords again, please?

(Dave does so for a few seconds)

STEVE: Absolutely beautiful. Mesmerising. Now let's have the whole band paying it for one hour straight.

PAUL: You ARE joking?

STEVE: We better get used to it.

CLIVE: Steve... this isn't ok.

STEVE: Less of that, or I'll fire you, too.

CLIVE: Are you really recording this practice session?

STEVE: Yes I am.

CLIVE: I want you to listen to it when you get home. Then I want you to reflect on it.

(‘Paranoid’ bass playing is heard for a few seconds).

STEVE: Yeah... I'm so cool.

DENNIS: Ok, Steve. Now let's play ‘Phantom of the Opera’. It's a great track! Really!

PAUL: Or maybe we could play ‘Iron Maiden’. Or ‘Running Free’!

STEVE: They are good tracks, but they're not good enough, yet. Let's change ‘Running Free’ so we've got the Paranoid chord progression in it. It could go something like this...

(Steve plays the new bass part of ‘Running Free’ then stops).

PAUL: Steve, again, please stop with all this.

STEVE: We're just going around in circles, aren't we?

PAUL: Steve! You're an idiot! I'm SICK of this!

STEVE: THEN GET THE HELL OUT!

DENNIS: Calm down, Steve. It's ok. I know what will cheer you up...

(The guitar part of Paranoid is heard again).

STEVE: (Speaking over the guitar): Yes... That's pretty good...

(The guitar stops)

DENNIS: Theeere you go.

DAVE: I'm actually having a good time. Our new sound is hypnotic. And you can't copyright a chord progression.

DENNIS: Ok. The one bit of hope I was clinging to has now gone. I hope you're (expletive) happy, Dave. This band is ruined once and for all. I'm going to quit, RIGHT NOW.

PAUL: Ohhhh, I get it. This is a joke. You threatening to fire everyone and playing moronic music. You had me going for a while. You had us all going. Well done.

STEVE: Dennis, would you like to play the chord progression, again? Just for me?

PAUL: Hahaha! You're hysterical!

STEVE: Please...

PAUL: Baaahaaahaha!

STEVE: I'll play it, then.

(Steve plays the notes of the chord progression)

PAUL: (Over the playing) Is this... real?

DENNIS: Let's just go...

PAUL: Errr...

DENNIS: He's clearly gone mad.

(Bass playing is still heard and a door opens)

DENNIS: Bye, Steve.

STEVE: (Still playing) If you ever change your mind... Well. I'm still here.

CLIVE: I'll turn the recorder off. Steve's just having a bad day. That's all.

DAVE: No, Keep it on. I want...